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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER	
THOMPSON, JAMES A	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2624	

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/938,512	ROOSEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James A Thompson	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *27 August 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *16 November 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/272,556.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 09/272,556, filed on 19 March 1999.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed 27 August 2001 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Specifically, European Patent Application 0756414A2 and European Patent Application 0689157A2 have not been considered since copies of said European Patent Applications have not been provided.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 10 recites "at least one other scanner that can print said print file in accordance with said scan job settings." However, a scanner is incapable of printing a print file. Further, there is no antecedent basis for "said print file".

Given the claim language regarding printers and printing methods in claims 1-9 and 11-17 and in further view of the claim language of claim 18, lines 17-18 regarding a scanner, it is clear that Applicant intended to recite "at least one other scanner that can scan said scan job in accordance with said scan job settings." This claim wording is both logical, consistent with what is clearly intended by Applicant, and consistent with the specification. Examiner will therefore interpret the claim language "at least one other scanner that can print said print file in accordance with said scan job settings" in claim 10 to mean "at least one other scanner that can scan said scan job in accordance with said scan job settings".

4. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 20 recites "[t]he printer according to claim 18". However, claim 18 recites a scanner. Therefore, the language of claim 20 is indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-9, 11-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lobiondo (US Patent 5,287,194).

Regarding claim 1: Lobiondo discloses storing, in each digital image processing device (column 4, lines 3-8 of Lobiondo), information on capabilities and status of connected digital image processing devices (column 3, lines 45-50 of Lobiondo); receiving, at a first device, a command for starting a digital image processing job (column 4, lines 30-31 of Lobiondo) with job settings (column 3, lines 51-56 of Lobiondo); automatically analysing said digital image processing job (column 4, lines 30-34 of Lobiondo) as to device capabilities necessary for processing said job (column 3, lines 64-65 of Lobiondo) in accordance with the job settings of the job (column 3, lines 65-68 and column 4, lines 8-13 of Lobiondo); automatically checking if the first device can process the job in accordance with the job settings of the job (column 4, lines 46-50 of Lobiondo); and automatically advising at the first device, if said first device cannot process the job, of at least one other device that can process the job in accordance with the job settings of the job (column 4, lines 32-34 of Lobiondo). By automatically notifying the user of how the print job will be distributed (column 4, lines 32-34 of Lobiondo), the system would therefore be automatically notifying the user of at least one other device that can process the job in accordance with the job settings in the case that the first device cannot print the job according to all of the user's specific settings.

Regarding claim 2: Lobiondo discloses that a criterion used in deciding if a device can process a specific digital image processing job is whether that device has the capabilities

necessary for processing the job (column 4, lines 46-50 of Lobiondo).

Regarding claim 3: Lobiondo discloses that the advice is given if another device having said capabilities needed for processing said job is available (column 6, lines 8-16 of Lobiondo).

Regarding claim 4: Lobiondo discloses that, if more than one other device can process the job, the advice indicates one other device on the basis of the walking distance from the first device (column 5, lines 34-44 of Lobiondo).

Regarding claim 5: Lobiondo discloses that, if more than one other device can process the job, the advice indicates one other device on the basis of degree of occupation (column 5, lines 18-33 of Lobiondo).

Regarding claim 6: Lobiondo discloses that the advising (column 4, lines 32-34 of Lobiondo) has the form of a message on the display of the first device (column 6, lines 16-21 of Lobiondo).

Regarding claim 7: Lobiondo discloses storing, in each printer (column 4, lines 3-8 of Lobiondo), information on capabilities and status of connected printers (column 3, lines 45-50 of Lobiondo); and receiving, at a first printer, a print file (column 3, lines 56-60 of Lobiondo) having pre-programmed settings (column 3, lines 60-63 of Lobiondo). The type of data to be printed (column 3, lines 60-63 of Lobiondo), along with other types of settings inherent in a print file, such as number of pages in the file, color, etc., are the pre-programmed settings. Further, the setting input by the user (column 3, lines 32-36 of Lobiondo) are also pre-programmed settings since

said input settings must be entered before a print job can commence.

Lobiondo further discloses automatically analysing said print file (column 4, lines 30-34 of Lobiondo) as to printer capabilities necessary for printing the print file (column 3, lines 64-65 of Lobiondo) in accordance with the pre-programmed settings of the print file (column 3, lines 65-68 and column 4, lines 8-13 of Lobiondo); automatically checking if the first printer can print the print file in accordance with said pre-programmed settings (column 4, lines 46-50 of Lobiondo); and automatically advising at the first printer, if said first printer cannot print the print file, of at least one other printer that can print said print file in accordance with the said pre-programmed settings (column 4, lines 32-34 of Lobiondo). By automatically notifying the user of how the print job will be distributed (column 4, lines 32-34 of Lobiondo), the system would therefore be automatically notifying the user of at least one other print that can print the print file in accordance with the pre-programmed settings in the case that the first printer cannot print the print file according to all of the specific pre-programmed settings.

Regarding claim 8: Lobiondo discloses that each print file is stored upon reception and not printed until an operator, using the operating means of the operating unit of the printer, selects said print file and starts a print process for said print file (column 5, lines 45-51 of Lobiondo), and wherein the advice is given in reaction to selection of the print file (column 5, lines 55-62 of Lobiondo). In order for said print file to be selected and sent to a plurality of different printers (column 5, lines 45-51 of Lobiondo), said print file

must be stored at the first printer, is use by the user, in some form after being received at said first printer.

Regarding claim 9: Lobiondo discloses that a print file comprises metadata specifying job information (column 3, lines 59-63 of Lobiondo) and print image data (column 4, lines 35-39 and lines 43-46 of Lobiondo); and that at least the metadata of each print file are shared among at least a subset of the printers connected to the system (column 4, lines 46-50 of Lobiondo), so that a print file may be selected and started at any one of the printers of said subset, regardless of presence of the associated print image data in that printer (column 4, lines 50-54 of Lobiondo). The subset of printers among which the metadata of each print file is shared is the subset of printers corresponding to which printers have the capability of printing the specified print job (column 4, lines 46-50 of Lobiondo).

Regarding claim 11: Lobiondo discloses a printer (figure 2 of Lobiondo) comprising a network connection unit (figure 1(20) of Lobiondo) for communicating with the system and for receiving print files having pre-programmed settings (column 3, lines 20-23 of Lobiondo); a print unit (figure 2(55) and column 5, line 69 to column 6, line 2 of Lobiondo); an operating unit (figure 2 (40) of Lobiondo) provided with operating means (figure 2(65) of Lobiondo) and a display (figure 2(75) and column 6, lines 2-4 of Lobiondo); and a control unit (figure 3(50) and column 3, lines 41-50 of Lobiondo) including a maintaining mechanism (figure 3 (50(portion)) of Lobiondo) for maintaining information on capabilities and status of connected printers (column 3, lines 45-50 of Lobiondo); an analysis mechanism (figure 3(50(portion)) of Lobiondo) for analysing a received print file (column 4,

lines 30-34 of Lobiondo) as to printer capabilities necessary for printing the print file (column 3, lines 64-65 of Lobiondo) in accordance with the pre-programmed settings of the print file (column 3, lines 65-68 and column 4, lines 8-13 of Lobiondo); a checking mechanism (figure 3(50(portion)) of Lobiondo) for checking if the printer can print the print file in accordance with said pre-programmed settings (column 4, lines 46-50 of Lobiondo); and an advising mechanism (figure 3(50(portion)) of Lobiondo) for advising, in the case that the printer cannot print the file, of at least one other printer that has the capabilities needed for printing said print file in accordance with said pre-programmed settings (column 4, lines 32-34 of Lobiondo). By automatically notifying the user of how the print job will be distributed (column 4, lines 32-34 of Lobiondo), the system would therefore be automatically notifying the user of at least one other print that can print the print file in accordance with the pre-programmed settings in the case that the first printer cannot print the print file according to all of the specific pre-programmed settings. The control unit (figure 3(50) of Lobiondo) is embodied in hardware or software (column 3, lines 41-42 of Lobiondo). The maintaining mechanism, analysing mechanism, checking mechanism, and advising mechanism are the respective portions of the hardware and/or embodied software, along with the associated digital memory, that perform the functions of the maintaining mechanism, analysing mechanism, checking mechanism, and advising mechanism.

Regarding claim 12: Lobiondo discloses that said control unit decides if a printer can print a specific print file on the basis of whether that printer has the capabilities necessary for printing the print file (column 4, lines 46-50 of Lobiondo).

Regarding claim 13: Lobiondo discloses that said control unit gives advice if another printer having said capabilities needed for printing said print file is available (column 6, lines 8-16 of Lobiondo).

Regarding claim 14: Lobiondo discloses that the information on capabilities and status of connected printers (column 3, lines 64-68 of Lobiondo), maintained in each printer (column 4, lines 7-8 of Lobiondo), includes the physical location of said printers (column 5, lines 37-40 of Lobiondo); and that, if more than one other printer can print the print file, the control unit advises one other printer on the basis of the walking distance from the first printer (column 5, lines 34-44 of Lobiondo). In order to select a printer that is either located near the predetermined location or a printer that is located remotely (column 5, lines 37-40 of Lobiondo), it is inherent that the physical location of said printers be a part of the status of the connected printers. Otherwise, there is no means by which the printers' locations can be determined in the user interface.

Regarding claim 15: Lobiondo discloses that, if more than one other printer can print the print file, the control unit advises one other printer on the basis of degree of occupation (column 5, lines 18-33 of Lobiondo).

Regarding claim 17: Lobiondo discloses a metadata exchange module (figure 2(30(portion)) of Lobiondo) for exchanging metadata of print files directly or indirectly with another printer (column 3, lines 27-29 and lines 37-45 of Lobiondo), wherein said control unit is operable to receive metadata from said metadata exchange module (column 4, lines 46-50 of Lobiondo). In order to analyze the printers based on the

metadata (column 4, lines 46-50 of Lobiondo), the metadata must be received by said control unit. A workstation (figure 2(30) of Lobiondo) is a PC computer system (column 3, lines 29-30 of Lobiondo), and therefore comprises a processor and computer memory. The metadata exchange module is the portion of the processor and computer memory that performs the functions of said metadata exchange module.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 10 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lobiondo (US Patent 5,287,194) in view of Ohkubo (US Patent 5,123,063).

Regarding claim 10: Lobiondo discloses storing, in each printer (column 4, lines 3-8 of Lobiondo), information on capabilities and status of connected printers (column 3, lines 45-50 of Lobiondo); receiving, at a first printer, a print job command entered by an operator (column 4, lines 30-31 of Lobiondo) including print job settings (column 3, lines 51-56 of Lobiondo); automatically analysing said print job (column 4, lines 30-34 of Lobiondo) as to printer capabilities necessary for processing the print job (column 3, lines 64-65 of Lobiondo) in accordance with the entered print job settings (column 3,

lines 65-68 and column 4, lines 8-13 of Lobiondo); automatically checking if the first printer can process the print job in accordance with the print job settings (column 4, lines 46-50 of Lobiondo); and automatically advising at the first printer, if said first printer cannot process the print job, of at least one other printer that can process the print job in accordance with the print job settings (column 4, lines 32-34 of Lobiondo). By automatically notifying the user of how the print job will be distributed (column 4, lines 32-34 of Lobiondo), the system would therefore be automatically notifying the user of at least one other device that can process the job in accordance with the job settings in the case that the first device cannot print the job according to all of the user's specific settings.

Lobiondo does not disclose expressly that the method discussed above is applied to processing digital scan jobs in a network system including a plurality of scanners.

Ohkubo discloses a plurality of scanners connected to a network (figure 4 and column 3, lines 26-30 of Ohkubo) in which the identification numbers and properties of each of said scanners are stored in memory (figure 2 and column 3, lines 31-39 of Ohkubo). Further, a computer processor is used to control scanning jobs and select the appropriate scanner, based on scanner capabilities, for each particular scanning job (column 4, lines 21-26 and lines 29-34 of Ohkubo).

Lobiondo and Ohkubo are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, namely control of digital image processing devices. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to apply the method taught by Lobiondo instead to a plurality of scanners in a network along with their associated scanning jobs. The

suggestion for doing so would have been both the printers taught by Lobiondo and the scanners taught by Ohkubo are both digital image data processing devices which can be controlled by a computer and have their processing jobs scheduled. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ohkubo with Lobiondo to obtain the invention as specified in claim 10.

Regarding claim 18: Lobiondo discloses a printer (figure 2 of Lobiondo) comprising a network connection unit (figure 1(20) of Lobiondo) for communicating with the network system (column 3, lines 20-23 of Lobiondo); a scan unit (figure 2(35) and column 5, line 69 to column 6, line 1 of Lobiondo); an operating unit (figure 2(40) of Lobiondo) provided with operating means (figure 2(65) of Lobiondo) and a display for entering a print job command with print job settings (figure 2(75); column 3, lines 33-36 and column 6, lines 2-4 of Lobiondo); and a control unit (figure 3(50) and column 3, lines 41-50 of Lobiondo) including a maintaining mechanism (figure 3(50(portion)) of Lobiondo) for maintaining information on capabilities and status of connected printers (column 3, lines 45-50 of Lobiondo); an analysis mechanism (figure 3(50(portion)) of Lobiondo) for analysing an entered print job command (column 4, lines 30-34 of Lobiondo) as to printer capabilities necessary for processing the print job (column 3, lines 64-65 of Lobiondo) in accordance with the print job settings of the print job (column 3, lines 65-68 and column 4, lines 8-13 of Lobiondo); a checking mechanism (figure 3(50(portion)) of Lobiondo) for checking if the printer can process the print job in accordance with said print job settings (column 4, lines 46-50 of Lobiondo); and an advising mechanism (figure 3(50(portion)) of Lobiondo) for advising, in the case that the printer cannot process the print

job, of at least one other printer that has the capabilities needed for processing said print job in accordance with said print job settings (column 4, lines 32-34 of Lobiondo). By automatically notifying the user of how the print job will be distributed (column 4, lines 32-34 of Lobiondo), the system would therefore be automatically notifying the user of at least one other print that can print the print file in accordance with the pre-programmed settings in the case that the first printer cannot print the print file according to all of the specific pre-programmed settings. The control unit (figure 3(50) of Lobiondo) is embodied in hardware or software (column 3, lines 41-42 of Lobiondo). The maintaining mechanism, analysing mechanism, checking mechanism, and advising mechanism are the respective portions of the hardware and/or embodied software, along with the associated digital memory, that perform the functions of the maintaining mechanism, analysing mechanism, checking mechanism, and advising mechanism.

Lobiondo does not disclose expressly that the method discussed above is applied to processing digital scan jobs in a network system including a plurality of scanners.

Ohkubo discloses a plurality of scanners connected to a network (figure 4 and column 3, lines 26-30 of Ohkubo) in which the identification numbers and properties of each of said scanners are stored in memory (figure 2 and column 3, lines 31-39 of Ohkubo). Further, a computer processor is used to control scanning jobs and select the appropriate scanner, based on scanner capabilities, for each particular scanning job (column 4, lines 21-26 and lines 29-34 of Ohkubo).

Lobiondo and Ohkubo are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, namely control of digital image

processing devices. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to apply the method taught by Lobiondo instead to a plurality of scanners in a network along with their associated scanning jobs. The suggestion for doing so would have been both the printers taught by Lobiondo and the scanners taught by Ohkubo are both digital image data processing devices which can be controlled by a computer and have their processing jobs scheduled. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ohkubo with Lobiondo to obtain the invention as specified in claim 18.

Further regarding claim 19: Lobiondo discloses that said control unit decides if a printer can process a specific print job on the basis of whether that printer has the capabilities necessary for processing the print job (column 4, lines 46-50 of Lobiondo). As discussed above in the arguments regarding claim 18, the method taught by Lobiondo is applied to scanners and scan jobs instead of printers and print jobs. Therefore, Lobiondo in view of Ohkubo teaches that said control unit decides if a scanner can process a specific scan job on the basis of whether that scanner has the capabilities necessary for processing the scan job.

Further regarding claim 20: Lobiondo discloses that said control unit gives advice if another printer having said capabilities needed for processing the print job is available (column 6, lines 8-16 of Lobiondo). As discussed above in the arguments regarding claim 18, the method taught by Lobiondo is applied to scanners and scan jobs instead of printers and print jobs. Therefore, Lobiondo in view of Ohkubo teaches that said control unit gives advice if another scanner having said capabilities needed for processing said scan job is available.

9. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lobiondo (US Patent 5,287,194) in view of MacKay (US Patent 5,718,520).

Regarding claim 16: Lobiondo discloses that a digital print file includes metadata specifying job information (column 3, lines 59-63 of Lobiondo) and print image data (column 4, lines 35-39 and lines 43-46 of Lobiondo), the printer further comprising an extracting module (figure 2(30(portion)) of Lobiondo) for extracting at least part of the metadata of a received print file and storing the same in a local memory dedicated to the control unit (column 4, lines 46-50 of Lobiondo). In order to determine if a printer is capable of processing the print job based on the details of the print job requirements (column 4, lines 46-50 of Lobiondo), at least the corresponding part of the metadata must inherently be extracted. Further, in order for the control unit (figure 3(50) of Lobiondo) to analyze the printer, the corresponding metadata must be stored in some form of local memory, such as RAM or the like, dedicated to the control unit. Otherwise, it is not possible for the data to be accessed by the control unit in order to compare the metadata with the printer characteristics.

Lobiondo further discloses a storing module (figure 2(30 (portion)) of Lobiondo) for storing the print image data of said received print file in a logical storage space allocated to said user (column 3, lines 32-39 of Lobiondo). Print image data is input into the workstation and stored (column 3, lines 32-39 of Lobiondo). Memory for the data must inherently be allocated for the print image data in order for said print image data to reside in said memory. Since the print image data is related to the user (column 3, lines 56-58 of Lobiondo), then said logical

storage space is allocated to said user. A workstation (figure 2(30) of Lobiondo) is a PC computer system (column 3, lines 29-30 of Lobiondo), and therefore comprises a processor and computer memory. The extracting module and storing module are the respective portions of the processor and computer memory that performs the functions of said extracting module and said storing module.

Lobiondo further discloses that said control unit further includes a print file releasing mechanism (figure 3(50(portion)) of Lobiondo) for releasing a print file for printing by the print unit only after selection of that print file and an associated print command entered via the operating means (column 3, lines 56-63 of Lobiondo). The control unit (figure 3(50) of Lobiondo) is embodied in hardware or software (column 3, lines 41-42 of Lobiondo). The print file releasing mechanism is the portion of the hardware and/or embodied software, along with the associated digital memory, that performs the functions of the print file releasing mechanism.

Lobiondo further discloses that the control unit operates said advising mechanism upon selection of a print file (column 4, lines 30-34 of Lobiondo), if the printer cannot print the print file in accordance with its pre-programmed settings (column 4, lines 46-50 of Lobiondo).

Lobiondo does not disclose expressly that said control unit further includes a print file selection mechanism for presenting print files, based on the metadata extracted by the extracting module, that can be selected via the operating menus.

MacKay discloses a print file selection mechanism (figure 8 of MacKay) for presenting print files (figure 7("Job File") of MacKay), based on the metadata extracted by the extracting

module (column 6, lines 45-54 of MacKay), that can be selected via the operating menus (figure 8(156) and column 6, lines 34-40 of MacKay).

Lobiondo and MacKay are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, namely printer and print job control. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include the print file selection mechanism taught by MacKay in the system taught by Lobiondo. The motivation for doing so would have been to be able to easily view the print files and to further be able to make changes to a print job with less required effort on the part of the user (column 2, lines 54-59 of MacKay). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine MacKay with Lobiondo to obtain the invention as specified in claim 16.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Eiichi Adachi, US Patent 4,870,678, 26 September 1989. Adachi teaches a system which stores and selectively transmits digital image data throughout a network with various digital processing devices.

Yoshinobu Kaneyama, US Patent 5,146,348, 08 September 1992. Kaneyama teaches a system which stores digital data and transmits said digital data to various terminals in a digital processing network.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A Thompson whose telephone number is 703-305-6329. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K Moore can be reached on 703-308-7452. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James A. Thompson
Examiner
Art Unit 2624

JAT
24 March 2005

THOMAS D. LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER